
American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection



Part 1: Missionaries

The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

Series I

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

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April 9, 1941–December 15, 1942

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THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.
156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

WILLIAM N. WYSHAM
MISS MARY E. MOORE
SECRETARIES

WESTERN AREA
228 McALLISTER STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

April 9, 1941

To Foreign Missions Chairmen
in the Western Area

Dear Friends:

Several items have come to hand which warrant a supplement to my spring letter of March 18. This will reach many of you in time for an early meeting of your presbytery; in cases where it does not, I count on you to give as much publicity as possible to the contents.

I. I urge each of you to see to it that a representative or representatives, from among the commissioners to General Assembly in your presbytery, are appointed officially to attend the Pre-Assembly Conference on Foreign Missions at St. Louis. Any one selected for this purpose will find the Pre-Assembly Conference one of the most rewarding experiences of the whole Assembly.

II. Now is the time to inform pastors about the Adult Training School at San Anselmo from August 4 to 16, since the pastors themselves and the leaders in their churches will soon be making their definite plans for the summer months. A printed folder about this conference will be available later, but advance information as to courses and leaders is as follows:

Rev. Joseph Ewing - Vesper Leader
Prof. Lynn T. White - Social Problems
Rev. D. G. Stewart - Understanding Youth
Miss E. De Vana - Intermediates
Prof. Herbert Evans - Seminar for Directors of Religious Education
Dr. Margaret Tappan - Ways of Teaching
Prof. Gurdon Oxtoby - Old Testament
Miss C. Mutch - Guiding Children in Christian Growth
Dr. Murdoch McLeod - Church Officers
Rev. William N. Wysham - Christianity and the Religions of Today

In addition, there will be a joint course on the foreign and national mission study books for the coming year, given by Mr. Wysham and Dr. Ralph Cummins of Decatur, Illinois, as well as other courses to be announced later. The expenses will be: Registration for one week, \$2.50; for two weeks \$5.00; Room and board, one week, \$9.00; two weeks, \$17.00

Because of the two courses of special interest to foreign missions which will be offered this year, I know you will wish to give full publicity to this conference.

III. Under separate cover I am sending you copies of a Call to Prayer, which I wish you would distribute to the presbyters at your meeting or otherwise. The

larger copies are for pastors, the smaller for them to scatter among their constituency.

IV. While the United World Emergency Fund is not solely a foreign missions responsibility, we are vitally interested in it, and it is the duty of every foreign missions chairman to use all his influence to have the members of each church in his presbytery confronted with its appealing needs. Dr. George Emerson Barnes, the director of the Fund, writes that, wherever the churches are informed of this great cause, their response is prompt and generous, but that about two-thirds of the active churches as yet know little or nothing about it. The period between Easter and General Assembly is an ideal one for pastors to present this cause to their people. Dr. Barnes' office in the W. M. F. B. will furnish all needed information and literature. I know you will be tactfully persistent in making sure that the Fund has a fair hearing in Presbytery and that its promotion is referred to some responsible committee, if this has not already been done.

V. Since I sent you excerpts from recent messages of our missionaries in the Far East, I have two more which impressed me so deeply that I must share them with you. The enclosed letter from our missionary, Rev. Stanton Lautenschlager, tells of the marvelous turning to Christ on the part of the students of Free China. I quote below a second letter just received from another of our staff in China, Rev. Myron E. Terry. It witnesses to the extraordinary hunger for Bibles and other Christian literature in the same area: "In the month I have received customers' orders for more than \$32,600.00 worth of Christian literature. In addition I have ordered \$55,000.00 worth of literature for stock here to tide them over until Autumn, a total of \$88,000.00. The needs for literature in this area are tremendous. For three years nothing has come into the area except what individuals have brought for their own needs.

"Mr. Lautenschlager's work in the area has resulted in hundreds of students wanting the Bible so that they may study it. They have to be refused, as there simply are not Bibles to sell them. The missionaries fear that if this interest is not met soon, they will turn to Communist literature or something else, as their minds are open and hungry. An army officer asked Mr. Moore in Hanchung for a Bible. The latter replied that he had none to sell. The officer thinking he wanted more money, began to offer increasing sums. Mr. Moore explained to him that he had just this one copy on his desk, that he was teaching a Bible school, and simply could not carry on his work if he sold it. Then the officer said, 'Tonight when you are through using it I will send my man to borrow it, and I will sit up all night and read it and return it to you by eight o'clock tomorrow morning.' And he did sit up all night with it."

The situation in East Asia is still tense, but our missionaries are holding on. In Chosen, as you have perhaps heard, about twenty have actually been arrested by the Japanese authorities as a result of their Christian witness. Among them are a number of women, but most of the latter have been permitted to sleep in their own homes. We trust that all will soon be released, but the situation demands much prayer that God will give wisdom and protection to all our missionaries at this time.

Sincerely yours,

H. A. Rysham

Frances Irene Forsythe
Presbyterian Mission
TSINGTAO, CHINA
山東青島長老會濟陽路門牌六號

Home, May 4, 1941

Dearest Sister & all:

I have a chance to send this letter to be mailed in U.S.A. - so I'll write this briefly to tell you a few things.

Mr. F. in P.O. yesterday said that all the U.S. mail & Phil - in & out is under a more rigid inspection than before - so there may be fewer letters reaching you, You'll understand why - & if they are a longer time, new route. Caution in what is said is needless for me to mention. There are ~~strict~~ cautions for you folks. I'm enclosing one to Paul to be sent on with some cautions about his letters here. Thanks for sending it on! Be sure you keep my stamp & other account - You're a pease!

Yesterday, got off letters to all of the stations to hurry up report material - then dug up a few weeds in yard for exercise. Went with the others of station to the park for a little ride & it was lovely to see the flowers & beauty of the sea. One evening we had a marvelous sunset! That day I was at Mr. Davies & he showed me some lovely books - collections of Chinese art - it was refreshing - such beauty - mountains & flowers -

Seems best to stay in till I can get what I need to do on these reports. Have a few Bibles

classes in sight & H.S. teacher's prayer meetings
I nites etc. may help some with some classes for
new "decisionists" (my coming) in girls & Boys' school.
Guess I'll be busy enough — I do not want
to waste any of this precious time & the new strength
that is returning —

I'll not use this bottom of sheet
much love,

June

Dear Margaret MacLeod Friends,
+ Oregon City Presbyterian Church:

6 Tsai Yang Road
Tientsin, Shantung, China
May 22, 1941

You have had the report letter but I want to thank you for your prayers report to you that I am well and sent a bit of news.

I am so happy to be well again and I hope I shall never forget to be grateful. Even still sometimes when I go out I almost stop myself with the question, 'Is it alright?' But this very busy month has given ample proof that I am well although I still have to measure my strength a bit. There was a relapse after I wrote the report - I overdid before I was really well - and some urged a trip to Peking for special tests. But God marvelously released me in time to save that.

I would have gone out to the country before since our staff is reduced all wanted me to wait to help out with the reports for the coming Mission meeting. I had been elected to write the annual evangelistic report for Shantung so that, too, delayed the village return. Now that is off and we are getting out for a few weeks before the wheat harvest. If conditions remain as they are now, we may be able to be here for part of the hot summer weather but if not and I cannot return that is quite all right.

There have been so many opportunities to do more than this routine work that I have been reconciled to stay in, to help in the evangelistic work in our schools with over 770 students. Five classes with the girls looking forward to baptism have been a rare joy; their hearts were so earnest and teachable. One had the feeling of writing for the first time on a new piece of paper. The twelve life-volunteers met twice in my home for fellowship and prayer. Chapel talks and a weekly Bible class in 'acts' were added. I am so grateful that The Master was willing to let me have this joy.

The Children's Church has been going thru trial. One of the seemingly best leaders is willingly being married as a concubine. It has been a terrific heart-break to us; she will surely 'eat bitterness', as the Chinese expresses it, but none could prevent her. We feared also for Jesus' reputation there and the future of the group. However latest reports are that non-Christians say that it is not Jesus nor the church that is bad but that the girl herself failed. There is much comfort in that; the door is still open; and someone else must take her place in teaching the little school. I sometimes wonder whether Jesus may have left Judas in until the end so that our disappointments in people may not be too crushing.

Another of the older girls was just recently married here to a Christian, with a Christian ceremony in a church. Here was the first of that kind for all of that area. She was so true to The Master and so glad in her faith that we were much comforted. A heart-broken letter from one of the boys showed us that this insidious work of Satan is hurting but cannot wholly defeat the work of God there. The struggle of good over evil still goes on in men's hearts. I am sure that our Lord will conquer at Kang Chia Tsan but it is a bitter struggle and has been from the very first there for that is Satan's undisputed field except for that little handful of young people. Travel difficulties prevent our going to them at once but we hope to go soon. Will you pray for them especially?

There has been some rain. Now we pray that the semi-starvation conditions out in the country may, by God's mercy be relieved. We are going to the village where some five years ago we were bombed. Only evil has come to the man who threw the bomb to drive out Christ. We are so sorry for we would that he would repent. But he has delayed the work there, but there are other new believers & we are eager to go to them. Thank you all. Most Sincerely, -Yau Chien - Irene

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THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

(Dr. James L. R. Young)
Temple Hill Hospital,
Chefoo, Shantung, China,
April 2 and 5, 1942
(Received October 1, 1942)

DO NOT PUBLISH

Dear friends:-

It seems too good to be true, but we actually have an opportunity to send letters home. Our Consul is expecting to leave this port at the end of the week, and the instructions he has had from the Japanese authorities indicate that it will be possible for him to take a limited number of letters home for us. My how we wish that these postal facilities would work both ways, but we realize how anxious you will be to get a little direct news from this part of the world, and we are equally anxious to let you know. We were informed in January that we could send letters to America through the Swiss authorities in Tientsin, but we have never had any confirmation that those letters were ever delivered. We have had no English mail since the war started and a very little written in Chinese from friends here in China, since the war started in December.

As far as I am concerned, the most important piece of news is that I am married. Marguerite Luce, one of our American nurses here at Temple Hill, and I were engaged in November expecting to be married at some early date. Then when the war came on December 8th it changed the complexion of our situation a great deal. According to the American law governing us out here if the marriage ceremony is not performed in the presence of the Consul it is not recognized by the government. The day war started I heard the news at breakfast time and hurried down to the bank in a fruitless effort to cash a Shanghai check. I met Dr. Berst there and we returned to the hospital. I hurried as many of my operative cases as possible to get started home before the soldiers arrived to take some kind of charge of the hospital. I got several of them home before lunch and while we were at home for lunch the soldiers arrived. Dr. Berst and I were escorted back to the hospital by a guard of six soldiers and a Japanese businessman who spoke English. We were not allowed to open our dispensary and the patients were told to go to the Municipal (Japanese) Hospital; also we were not allowed to admit any more new patients to the hospital. Patients in the hospital could not leave the premises unless they had a permit from the Military Mission. The doctors and nurses were allowed to go back and forth from the hospital to their homes; sometimes this was freely, but usually it was with difficulty. I remained at the hospital while Dr. Berst accompanied these soldiers to our homes where they collected all of our radios. The soldiers on guard kept coming through the hospital every hour or so, and kept it up during the night. That night they were prowling around our homes as well. The next day Marguerite and I decided we would get married at once. I went to the American Consulate to get the necessary credentials and found two Chinese officers at the gate. When they told me I could not go in I insisted, and they turned their backs to me and in I went. The Consul advised me to get permission for Marguerite and the Reverend Mr. Browne to accompany me, and return and have the ceremony in the Consulate as he was not leaving his premises. I returned to the hospital and addressed my request through an interpreter to the Japanese officer of the Military Mission who was there at the time. He promptly asked me if I was marry-

ing a Chinese girl. Everyone laughed when the interpreter asked me the question and I thought that the Japanese officer suspected trickery of some sort, as he refused. Feeling that we probably would be placed at least under house-arrest and if so we probably would not be allowed to go from house to house, we sought the services of Reverend George Browne of our Mission here and he married us that afternoon.

Dr. Berst is the superintendent of the hospital and we decided that he should live in the hospital and I would live here in our compound so that there would be a man in each place. That seemed more urgent to us as Roy Lanning had been arrested the day before and Dr. Bryan, with whom I lived, was arrested that day. We did not know why Roy Lanning had been arrested, but when they came for Dr. Bryan they told him it was because he had been a medical officer during the last war. We moved the ladies over to this compound so they would not be isolated. In this compound Mrs. Lanning, Mrs. Berst, Mrs. Dilley, Miss Susan Eames, and Marguerite and I were living. Around the hill a little farther to the north Mr. and Mrs. Browne, and Dr. and Mrs. Hilscher from our station in Tengchow, were living in their compound. Dr. Berst and Miss Beegle were living in the hospital. It was reassuring to be together as the soldiers were coming around about every two hours day and night, and for several weeks when they felt inclined they wandered through our houses, usually demanding food. After a few days we learned that Roy Lanning and Dr. Bryan were confined in a hotel down town in company with 15 other men, British, American and Greek, and one Chinese man. These men were questioned repeatedly, but were not subjected to any bodily harm. Gruesome tales of what was happening to the Japanese in America were frequently told to these men, which added greatly to the war of nerves. After a while we were given permission to take clean clothes, food and books to them. After a time coal was a problem, as this hotel is heated by small stoves in the individual rooms. Some were able to purchase coal and have it delivered to the hotel. Our American Consul very generously supplied coal to all the American men during the six weeks they were detained.

Life continued along this pattern for about a month, during which time we were told we could go out on the street, but not farther than three miles from our homes, and that we must be home before evening. Also we were given arm bands of white cloth that had a large letter A with our own number and the stamp of the Japanese Consulate on them. These bands were to be worn at all times when on the street and some faces were slapped when they were forgotten. It is surprising how that helped the whole community to remember their bands. At the end of the first month the Japanese guards were removed from the hospital and these were replaced with Chinese policemen, which we thought was a great improvement. A little later the guards stopped coming around our houses and we were quite relieved. During this time a few patients were admitted to our hospital, mostly surgical cases under the care of a Chinese doctor who had been trained in our hospital many years by Dr. Dilley. We foreign doctors and the Chinese doctors on our staff were not allowed to practice. We had been able to prepare for this possible eventuality according to the financial plan suggested by the Presbyterian Board and were able to carry on. The Nursing School was closed at the beginning of the war, but after a month when the student nurses were unable to get permission to leave the hospital, courses were started again as our doctors and others had more time than usual to teach. For the first two weeks Dr. Berst and Miss Beegle did not try to leave the hospital, but after that they could come out to their homes for a short time every day. We foreigners did not attempt to go into the hospital during the first month.

During the second month of our limited confinement conditions here were decidedly easier. Permission for admission of acute cases was easier to obtain and more came in under the care of Dr. Chang, to whom I referred to above. We were able to get permission for some of the hospital employees and some of the student nurses to leave, which was a real help in saving food. Also some of the patients who had not been able previously to get permission to leave were allowed to go home. We were scaling our

hospital staff down as quickly as we could get permission for nurses and servants to leave. We were living from day to day as we did not have any idea when the authorities would come up and take over the hospital or close it entirely. The absolute uncertainty was one of the most difficult things to cope with. One of our Chinese friends in town came up one day and told us, "They can't close this hospital. Why the Chinese all over the city are praying that it will be kept open. Why what shall we do if we get appendicitis? There is no place else we can go." Dr. Chang had five acute surgical cases at one time and only one of this group had sufficient influence to get permission to enter the hospital and be operated upon. Our Chinese doctors showed a fine spirit in accepting only half of their salary for the month of January, saying that they could get along, and those getting smaller salaries needed the money to live. These doctors have very good local reputations and could easily have opened offices and begun practicing, but they all preferred to stay with the hospital.

During February conditions improved still further; Dr. Berst worked out a budget so we could carry on if we could have 10-15 patients instead of our usual 70-90. A German businessman got permission to come in for me to operate upon him and we felt that they might allow our hospital to carry on in a quiet way. Then about the last of the month the blow fell. One day the man from the Military Mission, to whom we had to send daily reports, came in and asked Dr. Berst what his idea about the hospital was. He replied that he hoped they would allow him to open the hospital to serve this Chinese community which needed it so badly. This man replied that that was impossible as this was an American Hospital and they would have to take it over. A few days later quite a delegation of soldiers, two medical officers, two nurses, and the manager of the local Japanese hospital arrived. They seemed to be mainly interested in instruments: they collected all our instruments from the wards, supply-rooms, etc. and took them all to the operating room where they listed all. This took a couple of days as they checked the instruments by means of a Japanese instrument catalogue. When this was ended they sealed the doors of the operating room and we have not been able to use these things since. My German patient was not yet ready for operation and after much palaver they agreed to open the operating room, count the instruments I needed to use, stand by and watch me operate, and then count the instruments again. I decided it was too much risk to start a two or three-stage operation under such circumstances, as the operating room would not be available if any emergency arose. I kept this man in the hospital about ten days more and then sent him home. We expected some definite policy would be developed in regard to the hospital, but nothing has happened to date. Apparently there were contending groups for the hospital. The Local Municipal Hospital (Japanese) expects to have control, but the Military still hold the keys to the operating room. No operating has been possible and no new patients have been admitted since this time. This month our doctors declined any salary at all, asking that salaries be paid to those who needed it for living expenses. This was done.

This same condition prevailed throughout March: gradually our numbers were reduced as permission was received for some of our 12 patients to leave and some of our nurses also got permission to leave. Then about the middle of the month the Military arrived one day and said they wanted the instruments in our dispensary. They cleaned out this department of all instruments and some of the special furniture. At the time of this letter we are reduced to four patients and a few nurses. The weather has moderated but our fires in the boiler have been allowed to go out. Now the food in the hospital is almost all used up. Dr. Barst has informed the Military that unless they do something to relieve the condition of our hospital we would have to close in a few days. Probably we will have to close and await development.

You probably wonder what our hopes are under the present conditions. First, we hope that the Municipal Hospital will take over the management and run the hospital using our own doctors and nurses. This the Municipal Hospital proposed doing, but apparently they have not gotten the necessary permission from the Military. Incidentally I omitted to state that two weeks ago Dr. Berst was forced to sign a statement in the Mayor's office purporting to sign over the hospital to the Municipal authorities. He insisted that he had no authority to sign over the property nor equipment, but could merely refer the management to the city authorities. In a similar way Roy Lanning and Miss Susan Eames were forced to sign over our schools in this city. Roy called the attention of the Chinese present that he was signing under duress which would invalidate the signature, but who knows. If the hospital is kept in operation under the Municipal authorities we feel that it is less apt to be sacked. If the Military definitely close it we feel they will probably return at their leisure to remove the contents.

In February the Japanese Consul requested Mr. Roberts, the American Consul, to designate a committee to investigate the relief requirements of the American community and administer relief if some should be available. It was stated that the Japanese Government had allocated \$25,000 for the relief of the American and British residents in this place. The British had 349 residents, including the China Inland Mission School, as compared with 41 Americans at that time. The American problem was much simpler than the British, but even our problem required a lot of time. I was asked to serve on this committee. The other Americans lived at the opposite side of the city. It is impractical to try and use our car, and to conserve funds we were very rarely using rickshaws. This meant a lot of walking. One trip across is about equivalent to 18 holes of golf, so I have been having 18 - 36 holes of this new golf almost daily. We have been unable to find out if, when or how this money is to be repaid. Also we do not know whether or not these relief committees are personally responsible for the repayment. The British and American Committees, acting jointly, declined this responsibility until the answers to these questions could be given. This matter was referred to Peking, but no statement of policy or plan was forthcoming. Finally as some of the foreigners here were badly in need of funds we acquiesced and accepted the funds required for January, February, March and April without knowing the nature of the arrangement. The allotment of \$25,000 is now practically exhausted and we do not know whether or not there will be any further allotment, especially since provision for repatriation of those desiring to return home has been made. We here on Temple Hill have not yet needed to apply for relief. We promptly scaled our living costs down to less than half and further restrictions may have to be made. I received my October salary, and it was my November allotment that I was trying to cash the morning the war started. Our mail service was very slow before the war, and since then we have not received any English mail at all. Some of our group have gotten funds by selling some of their household effects, and we have some money yet that with careful handling will last us some time.

There are signs on all our gates stating that this property is under the control of the great Japanese Military. Fortunately for us the Japanese moving into Chefoo are settling in the opposite side of town. In that part of town they have taken over the school conducted by the Southern Baptist Mission. They are convinced that all missions have some connection with their respective governments and are secretly working for them. We are fearful that the authorities may cast envious eyes on our living compound here and require us to move somewhere. Our greatest protection lies in the fact that we live on the extreme western edge of the city, and as there is no wall surrounding Chefoo this section is not well protected from the hills, where irregulars are supposed to lurk.

This letter has been delayed, and it is now Easter morning. I want to add a few words about the hospital. Yesterday the Municipal Hospital authorities came here and said that they were going to take our hospital over on next Tuesday. They asked for a list of all the doctors who would help in the work, including Dr. Bryan, Dr. Berst, and myself. This latter was their request and not our suggestion. Dr. Bryan is leaving for America and he was excused but Dr. Berst and myself signified our willingness to help. This request came about doubtless as the result of previous discussions between the Municipal Hospital manager and Dr. Liu, who is our assistant superintendent. The manager said that they were not planning to bring in any Japanese doctors, nor any other Chinese doctors, but they were counting on our own medical and surgical staff to care for the work here. Dr. Liu told him that our Chinese staff was not adequate to care for all the work and they would have to have the foreigners to help. When this suggestion was first mentioned to Dr. Berst and me we told our Chinese staff that we would do whatever they thought was best, as the possibilities of Eastern psychology and intrigue were so great that we could not properly evaluate the situation. This certainly is sailing on an unchartered sea, but our staff feel that this is the best move for our hospital at the present. We have prayed earnestly to be led in the right way and we hope and trust that this is that way.

Now in closing I want to answer a question that probably is in the minds of most of you. Why are we staying here when an opportunity to be repatriated has just been made? In answer I will say that three families are planning to stay: the Bersts, the Lannings, and the Youngs. When this opportunity was first announced we asked our Chinese Christians what they thought we should do, and especially whether or not our staying would in any way make things more difficult for them. Their candid answer was that they thought most of our 14 missionaries in this station should go, but they thought that if some of us would stay it would be a great help when the turnover occurred. Following this expression of opinion on the part of the Chinese our station met and considered this question. We three families felt we should remain and the others felt they should leave to conserve funds and food for those who remain. Most of those going are quite reluctant to leave but are doing so because they feel it is their duty to do so. We just hope that you will try to understand the spirit in which we have met this problem. Certainly the problems confronting us today are not to be compared with those our predecessors faced when they opened up this work over 60 years ago.

In conclusion, may God richly bless and keep you all on this beautiful Easter morning. What a blessed privilege to send this Easter greeting to loved ones far away.

Very sincerely,

James L. R. Young

[Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

7/10/1941

5008

Camp White, Medford, Oregon
July 31, 1942

Dearest Sister:

How strange it seems to be writing that title. After several attempts had been returned and all the uncertainties that we had concerning you it is good to know that you are now in the borders of home and all that that little word means.

I cannot be there to welcome you again this time as has been the case the other two occasions. In looking back upon the first time I can still see Mamma showing her way into the dock space and defying any and all to put her out, and no one had the nerve to try it. A woman up on her fighting legs is just as well left alone.

Then again the next time, Margie and I had the pleasure of being the first to see you. That was a nice time to.

Now this time unless something very much unforeseen happens you will have to take the satisfaction you can out of this letter. The letter has all but the presence in it; the welcome the happy to see you and all of the usual voyage plus the happy relief that you are thru the submarine infested waters and back to the comforts of a rather well fed land.

We have thought of you many times, spoken of you often and all but somehow there has not been the anxiety of worry. It has been the confidence of perfect trust that you were held in the "hollow of His hand"

By the way not that you were concerned over it but you have some money that you likely did not ever anticipate getting. Your portion of the ~~Providence~~ Puget Sound Title and Trust has paid dividends. Some \$70 I believe. This money is at home and in custody of Bess and Margie. How will you have it - in pennies or just money? This attached check is just by chance that you may need it.

My home life is not any more nor has it been since the way back there when first went to Stevens. By that I mean just do not get home at all or seldom. Bess and Margie came to Eugene Saturday night of last week and I went North to meet them. Got into Eugene about 2:00 o'clock in the morning and left at noon the same day. This is just a taste and about the way it has been since the war started. Stuck at the post for weeks on end.

This Camp at Medford is a new cantonment for a new division that is just being activated. Have been here since the first of July. All the rest of the period of active duty has been at Stevens. Had a tour of duty back at the school at Edgewood for a month during September of 1941. Edgewood is near Washington D.C. This was a fine trip.

This tour here at Medford is my first experience at the big game. There is all the difference between here and a small post like Stevens and Kimbolton against New York. The fortunate thing is that the rules, regulations and directives are all the same. It is hard however.

Here I am talking about things being hard when you have had the experiences

that are terrible, the privations and all that goes in the uncertainties of your life. Yes that was a joke to talk of this being hard when at the worst it is just monotonous.

Naturally we do not know aht your plans are-if any. But, allow me to suggest that Salem can be you home if you wish.. Bess and Margie are away all day and many evenings, I am never at home so someone should be. It might not be a very active life but it will be home.

Roy is not very well. Looks pretty bad in fact. Some sort of Paralysis of some place. Have never known just what. Anyway he is not the robust young thing that he once was.

One of the boys is in the Navy as an Ensign Paymaster-the other is in Medical school; in Portland.

Just called up the folks. This cost them 60¢ and they pay for it. You see I cannot call from Cmap and pay for it on this end. So we referse the charges and they get to pay for it out of their allowance. Her part of the pay check is not precisely small change so the squack is largely noise without fervor.

Every week I get the Church Bulletin from Salem. Almost with out fail another boys has gone to the Service somewhere.

Things have not changed much since you left-you will find us each a little older and the place a littel older and the furnitue more worn and all.

Honey we weill glad to see you. Very glad.

Much Love



"at Gipsyholm"
1942
August 25.



WHEATON COLLEGE

"For Christ and His Kingdom"

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF
THE VICE PRESIDENT AND REGISTRAR

WHEATON, ILLINOIS

October 1, 1942

Miss Irene Forsythe,
Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, New York.

Dear Miss Forsythe:

Thank you very much for your good letter which has just been received. We rejoice to learn of your safe arrival in this country, and praise God for the many missionaries who were brought home on the Gripsholm. We heard Dr. Byram at our midweek prayer service last evening and our hearts were stirred as we heard of some of the experiences through which he and his wife were called upon to pass. Through it all we can see the good hand of the Lord, and I am sure that the faithful natives will carry out the work which has been left.

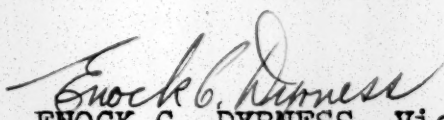
We were very glad that Paul was able to finish up his work this summer. He had worked very hard and at the end of the summer he was quite run down physically. I believe, therefore, that a change will be good for him.

The new year at Wheaton is getting off to a good start, as you will note from the enclosed bulletin which has just been issued.

Praying the Lord's richest blessing upon you as you recuperate from your recent experiences, and trusting that you may find many open doors in this country, I am

Yours in His faithfulness,

ECD:mg
Encl.


ENOCK C. DYRENESS, Vice President
and Registrar

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

(Rev. Chester G. Fuson)
Linh sien, Kwangtung, China,
October 25, 1942

Dear friends:-

Mrs. Fuson and I had the special privilege of spending six weeks with the Hunan missionaries at the mountain resort of Nanyoh. We stayed with the Abbotts and had a delightful time. There were five people with sprue taking treatment on the mountain. The Stringhams and Mrs. Abbott were getting along well and have gone back to work. I had a relapse from the symptoms I had two years ago, so I was told to go to bed for two weeks after I returned to Linh sien. This I did and have regained the six pounds I lost in the summer. I am feeling fine now and carrying on, though still on a diet. No need to worry about me as the quick come-back showed that I have strong recuperative powers.

This year our Union Christian Middle School on the compound has improved immensely. We have a new principal, an active Christian, and an energetic religious director. The spirit of the students is very much better. Our daily chapel has more than doubled in attendance. The Christian Fellowship Group has started a Sunday school in the village, and is cooperative with the church. We are very happy over the great change. 315 students this semester (200 last). Kwong Wai, the station primary school, has 335 students. True Light has 170 students, fairly good for such a late start. They are using the mission property in Saamkong, eight miles west of Linh sien.

Our beloved pastor Leung who had just completed his seventieth year and had had a fine retirement reception and farewell meetings the last Sunday in August, suddenly died ten days later. It was a great shock to all of us. We had not yet returned from vacation. His successor overworked and had a recurrence of T.B. He is in the hospital, but the church is carrying on with voluntary speakers for a while.

The hospital is getting along well. We have employed an extra doctor, a fine Christian Baptist, refugee from Chekiang. The Synod headquarters at Kukong (Shiukwaan) is flourishing. There are hundreds of members of the Church of Christ in China there as refugees. The Southern Baptists have rented a fine property to us and to the YMCA for hostel purposes, and a temporary church building is being erected in that place. Some of the Synod work will have to be curtailed unless more funds are provided as the rising costs of living are so rapid (10-15 times in the last two years). The Christians cannot increase their gifts as rapidly as the cost of living; in fact in our district they have only been able to increase them two or three times. This leaves the preachers below the poverty line of subsistence. The bonuses are helping some, but not adequately. We hear from the bank that the value of the Chinese currency is to be increased in relation to the US dollar from 20-1 to 16-1. If this is true that means that all the work and our salaries will be decreased commensurately. This will be a terrible blow. I hope the rumor is not true. It will not change the local value of the dollar nor reduce the cost of living! We shall carry on nevertheless, with God's help.

The last word from Dr. Lynn was that four student nurses from Hackett had arrived at Yeungkong with the superintendent of nurses, Miss Kwok, to finish that class; also he had an interne and had employed a woman doctor. So I hope he is getting on better.

MINISTER'S STUDY
WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI

November 13, 1942

Miss Irene Forsyth
7 Gramercy Park
New York, N. Y.

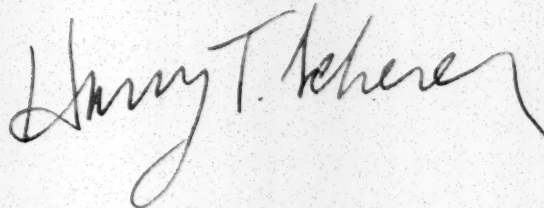
Dear Miss Forsyth:

I appreciated your letter regarding Paul Fan. I endeavored to locate him in Eden Seminary where I hoped he might have room and board and the influence and fellowship of Christian students. However, the Seminary is restricted because of the law which makes it necessary for them to be taxed if they receive boarders and roomers. St. Charles is a much smaller community and I believe it is to his advantage to remain there.

I have written the pastor of our Church who is also Professor of Bible at Lindenwood College, to get in touch with Mr. Fan. Some time soon I hope to have Mr. Fan as the guest of my assistant for a week-end. My assistant lives at Eden Seminary and thus he would be brought in touch again with theological students. I hope we can make this young man's life a bit more pleasant.

Yours sincerely,

HTS:ie



Please
return

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL - NOT TO BE QUOTED

(Caroline I. McCreery, R.N.)
Calcutta, India
December 1-9, 1942

Dear friends:-

"Hitherto hath the Lord led us," and we have no reason to think that He won't lead on. With the minimum of difficulties have we arrived thus far. Our party of ten separated where we disembarked, Miss Schafer and three of the men leaving immediately, the other six of us staying over night in that place. We arrived in Madras and spent most of the day there, doing nothing. We didn't even get around to see anything, for we thought we were going to have a room in "half an hour" to clean up in, but time dragged on until it was noon and we were to leave at four, so after lunch one went to the hair dressers and the other two, fiddled around doing nothing. The three men went to see some of the sights, they having left us to rest! From Madras it is around 48 hours by train to Calcutta. We had a comfortable compartment, 2nd class, and arrived here a little after 9 p.m. One of the Y.M.C.A. men was met by friends, who took care of us all, and we three women were put up here at the Y.M. Mrs. Jones (Methodist) and Miss Westra have gone to see the Methodist Missionary Home a short ways from here, and we may go over there. Two of the men who left the day before us, think they have air reservations for this Friday, today being Tuesday, and the men of the party are investigating possibilities of travel for the rest of us.

Dr. Newman sent a cable somewhere along the way telling of our safe arrival; you will have had it even before this is written. Except that our route was circuitous and that our companions were many and of one profession, and that we were more crowded than usual, the trip was not unlike normal times. I hope if you have the opportunity to send others that they will be as fortunate as we.

The trip from South India to the north was interesting to me in one thing especially, the comparison of vegetation with that in Hainan. So many things are identical. But I was surprised that we saw no bamboo until we were quite a ways along. I thought that it would be growing everywhere. Even when it did begin to show itself, it was in small clumps, and small stalks. I bought custard apples at one stop, otherwise oranges and bananas were the only fruit we could buy. This is the ideal season to travel, as it is the cool season and the rains are over. The train was terribly dirty - I mean, the dust and smoke blew in badly; we spoiled Americans with our air conditioned trains forget that they haven't been in use very long, so quickly do we get accustomed to luxuries.

December 4 - The above was written while I was waiting for Miss Westra and Mrs. Jones to come back from a tour of investigation. They went to see if there was room at the Lee Memorial Mission for us to stay and there was, so we moved over. You will recall the catastrophe that happened to the Lee children, over 40 years ago, when six of them were killed in a landslide at Darjeeling. This is the Mission formerly run by their parents. Mr. Lee is dead and Mrs. Lee, now 86 years old, retired a couple of years ago. The present superintendent is Dr. Walter Griffiths, a brother of Hall McAllister Griffiths, who is highly thought of by his colleagues.

It is very interesting here for there are so many coming and going from various places, and we all sit at one long table. Meals, by the way, are different from any place I have ever been. We have a little breakfast, a banana, tea and toast, in our room at 6:30. Breakfast at 9:30 so far has included fish, boiled potatoes and some vegetables following porridge, fruit and coffee. Lunch, at 2, is just one thing; the first day it was delicious corn bread, once it was baked beans. Then dinner is at 7:30, with soup, etc. as one would expect. No afternoon tea, strangely enough. They

charge only four rupees a day which is very little over \$1.00 U.S. I don't see how they do it. Of course there is no "service," but a group like us does not expect much. The rooms are very large; the ceiling must be 15 feet high.

At my right, at the table, is Dr. Crozier, who, with his wife, who is the scholar of the two, has translated the New Testament into an aboriginal language belonging to some tribe in the hills of the Shan States of north Burma. They are here reading proof. Mrs. Crozier used the Greek Testament, and they also used two or three Indian translations, as well as various English ones. They are about due for retirement, but are talking of starting the translation of the Old Testament, for she knows Hebrew also. Then there was a second generation Baptist from Burma who told about his exciting trip out of that place. There is the wife of a C.I.M. missionary from Kweichow, who has told us a lot about the lack of things and the terrific cost of commodities in China.

We went the second day we were here to see about air travel into China. There are seven of us. Two were given reservations for today, two for next flight and we three women for the next, but I understand that the two for today will not be leaving so we will all be delayed. I was very much surprised that we could even hope for travel so soon, so that if we are put off several times, it won't be much of a surprise to me. We have, I understand, been allowed maximum baggage, 40 kilos apiece, which is more than we had any hopes for. The rest would have to be left to come in by some other means.

I had a rather interesting experience yesterday. I went into Hall and Anderson's, one of the big European stores, and as I entered, saw a woman coming towards me, whom I recognized as the wife of the French Consul in Hoihow at the time of the occupation. She, Mme. Jankelovitch, had left her two Siamese cats with Grace Macdonald and me, her two beloved cats, Ah Clark and Rosie, whom she loved as few mothers love their children. I had to confess that I didn't know what had happened to the dear beasts, for one of them disappeared before I left and the other was left with Margaret Burkwall, and I suppose she left it with the house.

Give me China to India any day! Fortunate, isn't it, that we who are to go there, prefer it. The beggars are so many and always under foot.

Calcutta has not had an air raid, though there have been two alerts some time back. But they are prepared; there is a dim-out at night and windows are all hidden or covered with strips of gauze glued on. There are air raid shelters and trenches in case of need. There are barrage balloons, too.

December 7 - Yesterday at church I saw a Chinese man I had known in Hoihow; he was formerly with the Customs and later was the wireless operator on a B&S steamer, and was on the steamer I left Hoihow on, last year (1941). His name is Chen So. He left before the service was over but a friend of his stayed and I spoke to him. This latter was baptized at the evening service. The one I knew is not a Christian.

I hope if others are sent out as we were that they will have as pleasant a trip as we had. But I wish they might have a wee bit more warning, for commodities for sale of almost any sort, and anywhere, are scarce. Furthermore, if the suggestion had been "steamer trunk" instead of "small," it would have been accepted just as well, and of course the two suitcases can be most any size as they are cabin baggage. My typewriter is old, so I had no difficulty in getting an export permit. Someone has said that the limit of baggage was 175 lbs., but I do not know if that is true or not. Our trunks were in the baggage room, and were accessible, though I did not try to get at mine. At one port where we stopped, no one was allowed to buy more than one article of a kind in a store, and no packages were wrapped, or delivered. Women carried baskets, or knitting bags to carry purchases. Here in Calcutta prices are soaring and shelves are becoming bare. Shoes, stockings, underclothes, etc., are in many cases impossible to get. I needn't tell you of the fabulous prices in China; you have heard of them as I have. I mean good things, like imported shoes; there are plenty of local make, that the

Caroline I. McCreery, R.N.

-3-

feet can be covered with, but they have no support for the arch, and one's feet are soon ruined by them. I bought some nice cotton stockings, but they cost over \$1.50 U.S. a pair. So if the next comers can only do their shopping in the U.S.A. they can get what they want and pay much more reasonably for it. The only thing I have found more reasonable is my glasses; they are quite a bit cheaper here, for I have the prescription. For anklets we paid 81¢ U.S. a pair; the stockings were \$1.95. Paper is getting scarce and as it becomes so, it goes up in price, of course.

December 9 - I must get this letter mailed. Dr. Newman was to have flown this morning, but was delayed for a few days, so that means our date will be later, too. I rather think we will go to Kunming, and try to go on from there. I saw in this morning's paper that Hengyang had been bombed, so it is getting attention; hope they soon let up.

The weather is lovely, we are enjoying sunny days, but they are not hot. The inhabitants wear wraps, but, for the most part, we find our ordinary clothes enough. Now that we have to plan on being separated from most of our baggage for an indefinite period, it is hard to know what to take along. We may have 15 kilos and carry some. Someone said that what you carry and yourself must not weigh over 200 lbs. I shan't carry 60 lbs. of stuff, you may be sure.

Best holiday greetings and love from,

Caroline McCreery

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Best holiday greetings and love from,

Caroline McCreery

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK



(Rev. and Mrs. Courtland C. VanDeusen)
(Of Tsingtao, Shantung, China)
Canaan, New York,
December 7, 1942

Dear friends:-

Ever since last August we, the Van Deusens, have wanted to write a general letter telling you of what had been happening to us as a family and some of our plans for the future.

The days and weeks have slipped by and so now we combine this general letter with our Christmas Greetings to you.

First of all, we want to thank you for your prayers and interest during the hard days of uncertainty and waiting. We were nine months without any direct word from each other. Some of the reports that came to us through devious ways were inaccurate and only added to the anxiety and nervous strain that we were enduring. But we were sustained in a marvelous way and your prayer were a source of strength and comfort to us.

From the first day of the war till he left Tsingtao for repatriation on June 8, 1942, Van was held as a prisoner of war under house arrest. He lived in our mission house with the old servant who had been with us for over a quarter of a century. No restrictions were put upon supplies so food and fuel were ample. But the long weeks and months of living alone, the daily and hourly uncertainty of what might happen at any time of day or night, the lack of word from the family - all of these things created a severe nervous strain which caused rather a strong reaction when he at last arrived in this country. About twenty Americans and twenty Britishers were put in concentration camps in Tsingtao for reasons unknown but fortunately Van did not have to undergo this ordeal.

On June 8, those who were fortunate enough to be repatriated on the first ship left Tsingtao and were taken to Shanghai where they were kept in a camp for three weeks. Considerable liberty was allowed in Shanghai. On June 29 the repatriation group left Shanghai on the S.S. Conte Verde, a very comfortable Italian liner. Off Singapore the S.S. Conte Verde was joined by the S.S. Asama Maru which brought repatriates from Japan, Hongkong and Thailand. From there they went directly to Lourenco Marques in East Africa where they were exchanged and once more became free men and women. After a voyage of about 18,000 miles and over five oceans, through five seasons of the year and touching four continents the group arrived in New York August 25, 1942. It was a day never to be forgotten. Mary and the children were on hand to give a royal welcome. Once more the family was together and days of talking failed to satisfy fully the desire for family news on both sides.

In the meantime Mary had been having a very trying time here in America. You remember she returned from China in December of 1940, bringing back an aged aunt who for many years had been living in China. For nine months she had no direct word from Van and one friend in Free China to whom she had written replied that the last heard of me I was in a concentration camp. Mary's father, Dr. E. S. Lorenz, the hymn writer and composer, died in July of this year and her mother was dangerously ill for a long time. Father and Mother Lorenz had just celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary a short time before his death. Mary spent August taking care of her aunt, Mrs. Stephens, in their summer home on Brant Lake in the Adirondacks. She followed the daily reports of the M.S. Gripsholm with an anxious heart for the uncertainties of war-time travel made the journey dangerous even though safe conduct had been agreed

upon. There was a final anxious wait of three days in New York. It took three days for the FBI to examine all passengers, and since people were released in alphabetical order, Van did not get off the ship till the evening of the third day. During these three days little communication was allowed between shore and ship.

Our Board of Foreign Missions gave us a grand welcome and after a conference of two days when future plans were fully considered Van was sent away for a four months' rest period. Van and Mary and Lorie and Dick went to Brant Lake, N.Y., where they stayed for about a month. Then came a speaking trip to Philadelphia. From there we went to our old home in Canaan, N.Y. There we have been trying to fix up some rooms comfortably to serve as a rest place when we or the children are in need of such a place.

As to the future - our Board of Foreign Missions has asked us to serve in the "Furlough Fellowship of Service" work till September 1, 1943. Our area is to be eastern Tennessee, northern Georgia and northern Alabama. Furloughed missionaries are being placed in certain areas which pretty much cover the Presbyterian churches in the United States. The idea is to see that all churches, big and little, in all areas are visited and missionary enthusiasm aroused as the leaders are acquainted with the great opportunities for mission work which are opening up to us now and more which will be opening up to us after the war is over. It is a tough job but well worth all we can throw into the effort.

Our oldest son, Courtland, is in his last year at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. He is to graduate in April and is to take a nine months' internship in the Philadelphia Hospital. He is already in the Army Medical Corps with the rank of Second Lieutenant. Justina, our daughter, after graduating from Smith College and Ballard Secretarial School is now secretary in the Council of Social Agencies in Philadelphia. Edmund Lorenz, our second son, has just entered the army and is in the Engineering Training School at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He was taking engineering at Pennsylvania State College when he volunteered. Our youngest son, Richard L., is a senior at Mount Hermon School, Massachusetts. He wants to enter the aviation service after he graduates.

We begin our Furlough Fellowship Service work on January 1, 1943. We do not yet know where we shall live, but Knoxville, Tennessee, has been suggested as a possible place of residence. We hope to spend Christmas in Philadelphia with as many of our children as can get away for the day or days at that time. Some will have only a few days' vacation; others can stay longer. From Philadelphia we will go south into Tennessee and begin our work. We ask for your prayers and interest as we undertake this difficult task.

And now, dear friends, we send you our very best wishes for a Blessed Christmas-tide. Some of us may have hearts heavy with anxiety, but the message of Christmas can and will bring us the peace that passeth all understanding, the peace that sustains and comforts even in the midst of the storms of life. You will often be in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless you, every one!!

Affectionately yours,

Van and Mary
Courtland and Mary Van Deusen

Here it is at last. But the paragraph about the wedding got left out by mistake which was too bad. We are getting pretty about getting off. Dick is back - yesterday - my little word from Lorie - 8° below last night. Blanket a tremendous comfort. Hope you are really feeling better. Good you aren't here with us. My joints are sore in new spots! What would yours be! Will write soon with love. Mary

Eula

I'll have

to put on

extra

postage

So I'll

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Brant,

CHINESE EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D. C

8 December, 1942

Miss Irene Forsythe
Rivershore Apartments
1720 - 1st Avenue
Bradenton, Florida

Dear Miss Forsythe,

This is to acknowledge receipt with thanks
of your message of welcome addressed to Madame Chiang Kai-
shek. For the present her medical advisers consider that
she should refrain from any form of mental exertion, but
your message will be presented to her when she has recovered
her health.

Yours sincerely,

K. S. Wang

Secretary

Mrs. Templeton. (who met you) Dec. 15/42.

My precious June! Please return

Believe it or not - I can't tell you in words, what it meant to us all to read your stirring "circular" letter, and your personal letter - well - often had we wonder if in the Providence of God you would reach home soil in answer to our many prayers. We praise and glorify Him for His overshadowing care of you and others of His own.

Dear one, I pray that you have by now been greatly improved in health and that the latent nervous have relaxed somewhat. Surely, if surroundings measured up to your outline of them you should at this moment be "ready to go."

Sunday I heard the precious, heart-breaking war experience of Missionary Duncan McRoberts from Chungking. Our class opened its heart and its pocket-book to him to the sum of 47.00, to be sent direct to Northwest China thru our Christian Business Men's Com.

O, June, He is Coming SOON. I now feel, that surely within two more years. Our hearts cry, "How long, O Lord, how long?" But blessed be God! He is causing even this devilish, satanic, diabolical

Dr. Moressey was is greatly beloved here - Recently went Home to be with the Lord!

war to praise and glorify Him. For every reliable report brings tidings from every far flung battle line of multitudes being saved, out of every clime and nation to the praise of His glory. Shame on the home front that our men and boys must go to foreign soil and endure the pangs of war to find the Savior. A mighty work of evangelism is in progress. Yea tho he has to lay us to bring us to Himself - even so, Lord Jesus. How rapidly His body is being completed is the only comfort I find in all this Supreme crisis of the ages.

How I'd love to be able to express to you how I think and feel about all this glory mess, but best of all to hear your verdict.

So glad to hear concerning Paul, I'm sure he asked the Spirit's guidance in every step he has taken, so I have no doubt he is at present just where the Heavenly Father would have him. I trust your paths may soon cross. What a meet that will be, how he must long to talk to you.

Till after Christmas, I am assisting in the Christian Supply Center, owned and run by Miss Nielson, a friend. She has had a slight stroke and greatly needed my help, so I am racing to finish this before I go to the book shop - noon. She is a good soul, greatly beloved by all.

nurse, only as I take time out to relieve her.
Mother is so helpless in every way. Her memory
having almost entirely failed her; 'her organs';
her limbs; so helpless & dependent. She so wants
to go home. But it is not ours to ask why this
one, so active, so useful - seemingly so needful, is taken
and mother left - It's dorth all things. WELL
and in LOVE - He can make no mistake.
Rom. 11:33

Dearie, I heartily wish you were here. You know
what? In that case you would give the radio
message over KTW instead of myself. How I'd love
it. Tried to get Mr. R. "No could do". His theme Sunday
was "Paul's Mid-day Vision vs Paul's Mid-Night Vision".
"Most of you here have had his first vision, but how many
have had his mid-night vision - 'Come over into Macedonia
and help us'? Do you know - 1st. Ch. will hear only
Board Missionaries & Mr. R. is Oriental China Miss.
(formerly China Island).

Irene, honey, may you be blessed with all the fullness
of God in Him and strengthened with His might and
power in the inner man for the task (whatever that
may be) ahead of you. Please ask the same for me. For
we wrestle not against flesh & blood but against princi-
palities & powers against the rulers of the darkness
of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high
places.

I am wondering where you will spend the holidays.
You would not, I suppose, see a mob of defense work-
ers here, jostling each other in the streets - can hardly
gain passage. Many foreigners among them. Our Nation
as well as the others has much sin at other times.
Let me hear from you soon.
Godless of love - hugs & kisses. Anna

December 15, 1942

Dear Friends:-

The following letters from Miss Carpenter and Miss Schaefer were sent to the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Chester Fuson of Linhsien, China, and forwarded by Dr. and Mrs. Fuson to the Board for the friends and relatives of the Misses Carpenter and Schaefer. They make a fine Christmas greeting.

Lloyd S. Ruland

(Alice M. Carpenter)

September 14, 1942

How I wish I could tell you adequately how much your letters mean and how much it helps to hear from you and to have all the help you give in so many ways. The letters you send come through well and you are wise to address them in Chinese in a Chinese envelope, sometimes to me, sometimes to Dr. Wong and sometimes just to Ming Sum School. It makes a world of difference to have them and to hear the news you send. The one to Alice and me came, then the one to Mary from the pine scented mountain. It was a beautiful thought that you expressed about the old twisted trees and their lesson to us. How I rejoice with you that you had that restful time there. I do hope you are both much better for it.

The Hackett people will write you about their experiences. I shall merely say that they are in their own homes as they have been right along, and the hospital is safely in the hands of Dr. R.W....The Hackett foreigners are all awaiting repatriation but there seems to be no definite word of when that will be. They are all packed...The members of the mission feel that we should stay at Ming Sum as long as it is allowed to be open. It is open, we are very well, there is adequate medical care in Canton, and if we leave now there is grave danger that the school will close. Dr. Wong is as fine as ever but she feels she cannot carry the burden alone in this crisis, and she is not too well. We have prayed about it all with open minds. We want you to know that we are staying unless the authorities here put us out or unless our own country dishonors our passports. We feel strongly that if we leave now, we would be going against what we feel deep in our hearts is right. Alice S. was reading her Bible while we were faced with this decision and the message in Isaiah 51, 12-16 seemed a message for us. We do not want to seem to be stubborn but if people could only see the situation here they would know why we feel we must stay. We are at peace in our hearts in the decision to stay. The mission has voted that we can use the funds they have here for our personal maintenance since the government allows no more maintenance for those who refuse repatriation. We trust that we can go on getting money for the school by the same method as we have used.

I hope all letters will be sent to you for us as they seem to reach us and come quickly...Aunt Janet does not expect me to come home now so she will understand our decision to stay by Ming Sum as long as possible. Dr. Wong was saying this morning that she was so happy that we wanted to stay and were not staying just from "duty." I believe we may see the Dawn!

You will be interested in our little Happer Lodge. We had some money from various friends for Mary Niles Camp. We are fortunate that we did not buy land in the nearby city as we hoped to do, and also we are fortunate that we used the Mary Niles Camp Fund to build a little house for the teachers' rest room, the second floor for the use of teachers who have no home to go to for the summer holiday. On December 8th the building was not finished but Dr. Wong hurried up the men and had the second floor finished off though the first floor could not be done because of lack of cement for the floor. However, there is another entrance and this morning Alice S., Dr. Wong and I went into Mr. D.'s house and borrowed some chairs to make the teachers' rest room on the second floor possible. It is very attractive now and you would like it as we do. We shall pay the money back to the Camp Fund some day and in the meantime we have this place instead of losing the money. We are calling the little place HAPPER LODGE for Dr. Happer. Dr. Niles had early association with him and his family, and his daughter

gave the money for the principal for our Ming Sum Endowment. Also Dr. Happer baptized Dr. Wong's mother, grandmother and older sister in the early days of the work of our mission in Canton. The China Office at "156" might be interested in this, that the memories of those who have long labored here are being kept green because of personal relationships, as Dr. Wong's, with that family. She is so pleased with it. The plaster is not on the walls but the roof is on and there is a room for classes and teachers' meetings, and for recreation for the staff away from the children for a bit. It will be officially opened when Alice S. gives a tea to the staff to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of my arrival in Canton on September 26. How we wish you could be here. Last week, on September 10, I had a party for Alice Schaefer as that was the nineteenth anniversary of her arrival in Canton to study the language. We are so very thankful to be here together now and we have many a good time in the midst of much else! I wore my long dress last week at the dinner I had for her and we felt quite festive with candles and several treats of good food that I had been saving for some time.....

School opens tomorrow. We had summer school July and August, and then two weeks of holiday in September. Miss Lei is back after a year of study at Union Normal School. Mrs. Y., the principal, was so very kind to our blind friends while they were with her. She kept one of the students to study music this year and to do some more normal work. She was one of our girls who graduated in 1941 and is an excellent musician.

On October 18 we shall have a quiet celebration of the 53rd anniversary of the opening of the school. We shall also have a memorial service for Miss Durham. We had not heard of her going except through you. She lived long and happily and usefully.

With best wishes,

Alice M. Carpenter

(Alice H. Schaefer)
September 15, 1942

You know that we two have chosen to remain here. All the rest of our mission are to go on the next repatriation steamer if transportation from here to Shanghai can be arranged. It seems now as if we shall be two of eight Americans left here, but we feel it is right since thus far we are being permitted to carry on. Of course we don't know what the future holds but we will live one day at a time and God's grace is sufficient.

School opens today. How unbelievable it is. Much of the time we have a feeling of unreality, for it is still hard to realize that it is we who are in this particular situation. Both of us have kept well. We go to bed early, try to rest some during the day and eat as well as possible. These facts we believe contribute to health of body and mind. We also try to face our problems honestly, make our decisions and then don't worry about them any more. We are all in God's hands and are content to rest there.

With all good wishes to you and greetings to other friends,

Sincerely,

Alice Schaefer